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Northwich Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1954.

NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

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Health Report for 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich
Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year 1954.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,547 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,720
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,348
Rateable Value (1st October, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£226,587
Sum represented by a penny rate (year 1953/54)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£889 19s. 5d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	{ Legitimate ..	805	440	365	{ Birth Rate per 1000 of the esti-	
	{ Illegitimate ..	15	8	7	{ mated resident population	19·19
					After adjustment by the Comparability	
					Factor	17·46
Still Births	{ Legitimate ..	25	12	13	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and	
	{ Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	{ still) births	29·58
Deaths..	.. .. .	366	203	163	Death Rate per 1000 of the esti-	
					mated resident population ..	8·56
					After adjustment by the Comparability	
					Factor	10·18

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1000 live births	.. .. .	19·51
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	19·87
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1954 with the years 1943-1953:—

Year.	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1943.	28,900	.. 16.47	.. 10.72	.. 37.81	.. 40	.. 11
1944.	28,730	.. 18.16	.. 10.47	.. 30.65	.. 52	.. 14
1945.	28,460	.. 17.39	.. 11.59	.. 50.50	.. 55	.. 18
1946.	29,640	.. 18.04	.. 11.57	.. 28.03	.. 48	.. 13
1947.	30,650	.. 20.22	.. 11.97	.. 29.03	.. 56	.. 5
1948.	31,790	.. 18.71	.. 10.09	.. 23.56	.. 42	.. 4
1949.	32,660	.. 18.21	.. 9.76	.. 42.01	.. 70	.. 5
1950.	34,970	.. 19.98	.. 11.55	.. 37.19	.. 72	.. 11
1951.	38,310	.. 20.75	.. 11.30	.. 32.70	.. 66	.. 7
1952.	40,440	.. 19.98	.. 9.59	.. 28.46	.. 61	.. 7
1953.	41,920	.. 21.18	.. 8.23	.. 29.28	.. 47	.. 3
1954.	42,720	.. 19.19	.. 8.56	.. 19.51	.. 68	.. 3

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1954

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—	3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	—	2
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	4	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	18	3	21
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms... ..	19	13	32
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	27	46
18. Coronary disease, angina	28	14	42
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	2	6
20. Other heart diseases	24	35	59
21. Other circulatory diseases	9	6	15
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	5	4	9
24. Bronchitis	19	5	24
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	—	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	4	4	8
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	21	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents... ..	8	1	9
34. All other accidents	6	6	12
35. Suicide	1	4	5
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTAL	203	163	366

New Industries.—The Council have considered the zoning of sites in various Parishes which can be used for Light Industry, and have agreed these with the County Council as Planning Authority, and are now approaching the owners to see that these sites are, in fact, available. When information is obtained that the sites are available, the Ministry of Labour and the Board of Trade will be informed and trade enquiries can thus be directed thereto.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid- Cheshire Hospital Man- agement Committee).
Clerical Staff.	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
J. S. Carrie, Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat & Food Inspection. Cert. Sani- itary Science. Cert. Smoke Inspection & Boiler House Manage- ment. Hon. Cert. Hygiene R.I. Public Health & Hygiene.	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Whitehall, Hartford, Cheshire.	(Northwich Rural Dis- trict only).
W. P. Musgrave Cert. R.S.I.	1st Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
B. Marsland, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat & Food Inspection, Cert. Sanitary Science	2nd Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Commenced 1.10.54).	-do-
H. R. Worsley.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
Clerical Staff.	2 persons (whole-time).	-do-

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Northwich Rural District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of the samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Rural District Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services.

Towards the end of 1954, certain wards of the Davenham Isolation Hospital were set aside for the treatment of the area's infectious cases and also a number of chronic sick patients. Out of a total of 214 admissions for 1954, 131 of them came from the Northwich Rural District.

(C) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Northwich Rural area under the following Services:- School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, under the County Welfare Services, etc., etc.

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services:-

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.

The work done during the year 1954 in the Northwich Rural District is detailed as follows:—

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	287
School Children	...	...	...	...	3
Adults	...	...	...	...	14
Total					304

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	302
School Children	...	...	...	...	94
Re-immunised	...	...	...	...	266
Total					662

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	132
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	14
						<hr/>
Total						146
						<hr/>

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	244
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	13
						<hr/>
Total						257
						<hr/>

During the latter part of 1954, the prophylactic which gives protection against both diphtheria and whooping cough was put into general use. This vaccine reduces the number of injections from five to three for each child, and should preferably be commenced when the infant is 3-4 months old.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.

The service in the area continued to deal with Northwich Rural patients expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.

Nursing requisites and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service.

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1954 in 79 households in the Rural District. The kind of cases assisted included old age, confinement, etc.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

Water Supplies.—During the year the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board have carried out various short main extensions to supply new housing development by the Council.

Water Samples.—The Water Board has submitted to me for information, 67 copies of the Analyst's Reports on samples of water taken in the Northwich Rural District, all of which were reported upon as satisfactory.

In addition, the Public Health Department has taken 6 samples of drinking water and submitted them to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, all of which were reported upon satisfactorily.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The following statement, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, sets out in some detail the main drainage schemes and activities of the Council during 1954:—

“Delamere Area. — The scheme for the drainage of the Station Road area of Delamere has been the subject of a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inquiry, following on the discussions with the Water Board regarding protection of Water Gathering Grounds. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has intimated that it was expected approval would be given to the commencement of the scheme during the financial year 1955/56.

Moulton.—During the year good progress was made with the connecting-up of the Moulton sewerage system to the Pumping Station at Mereheath, which was extended. The whole of this work will be completed early in 1955, and this will enable the complete abandonment of the old Sewage Works at Moulton, the whole flow being pumped along with the drainage from Mereheath to the Davenham sewerage system and treatment being given at the new extended Davenham Sewage Disposal Works.

Davenham. — Construction work of the extension to the Davenham Sewage Disposal Works proceeded satisfactorily, and it is expected that early in 1955 the whole of the units will be complete and brought into operation. This works, when extended, will have sufficient capacity to deal with the whole of the Northwich U.D.C. housing development at Leftwich, the Rural Council's development at Davenham, and the whole of the flow from the village of Moulton.

Barnton.—Actual construction work in connection with the new Sewage Disposal Works at Riverside was commenced in April, and has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. It is expected that the work will be sufficiently advanced to enable the inter-connection to be made which will allow for the Gunnersclough Works to be abandoned early in 1955.

Weaverham.—The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, after holding an Inquiry, informed the Council in December that although it was agreed the works were considerably overloaded, extension thereto as proposed by the Council could not be agreed to at the present time because of the restriction on capital expenditure. Approval was, however, given to the Council to proceed with the provision of additional sludge-drying bed accommodation, and the Council will be going forward with this work during 1955.

Wincham.—The Council agreed to proceed with the preparation of a scheme for the re-sewerage of Wincham and the construction of a new Sewage Disposal Works which would enable several smaller sewage disposal arrangements to be abandoned. The scheme was prepared to a state when it could be submitted to the Ministry, and this was done. The holding of the Ministry Inquiry into the scheme is expected to be held early in 1955, when a question of land valuation for the site of the Sewage Disposal Works has been resolved.

General. — The Council's housing development in various Parishes has necessitated additional lengths of foul sewers and surface water drains to be laid. This development, in turn, causes increased flow to have to be dealt with at the various Sewage Disposal Works."

Under the following headings, Mr. J. S. Carrie, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

"Closet Accommodation. — During the year, 7 conversions were carried out under the Council's Grant Aid Scheme.

"Night Soil" Collection.—Collection is now undertaken in the following parishes:—

Marston	Little Leigh
Wincham	Rudheath (part)
Acton	Darnhall (part)
Crowton	Lach Dennis (part)
Cuddington (part)	Wimboldsley (part)
Weaverham (part)	Stanthorne (part)
Anderton	Lostock Gralam (part)
Comberbach	Bostock (part)
Oakmere	Utkinton (part)
Delamere	

In April of this year the Council resolved to extend this "night soil" service to the parishes of:—

Allstock	Nether Peover
Little Budworth	Rushton
Marbury	Tarporley
Marton	Utkinton

and to institute a free cesspool exhausting service for private dwellings where no public sewers were available. In order to carry out this work, the Council placed on order a 1,000 gallon Cesspool Emptier, delivery being expected in March, 1955.

Public Cleansing Services.—The Council operates a comprehensive house-refuse collection service throughout the area, collection taking place fortnightly. The scavenging fleet consists of the following vehicles:—

1 S.D. Freighter	1 Dennis Nightsoil and Cesspool
1 Bedford	Emptier
2 Dennis Paxits	1 Aveling-Barford Calfdozer for
2 Dennis Side-Loaders	Operation of Controlled Tipping

The labour force employed consists of:—

1 General Foreman	1 Calfdozer Operator
6 Drivers	19 Scavenging Loaders

During the year 3,822 loads of refuse were removed and disposed of in the reclamation of land. In addition, 549 cesspools and septic tanks were pumped and cleansed.

Salvage of Waste Materials.—The salvage of waste materials has been well maintained. The total income from sales amounted to £2,886, as against £2,682 for the previous year. The following materials were salvaged:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	334	3	—	—
Scrap Metals	—	2	1	—
Textiles	6	18	3	19

Destruction of Rats and Mice.—306 premises were treated, involving 1,523 operational visits. The contract figure for the period amounted to £305 and the amounts received in connection with isolated clearances totalled £43. The Council again operated jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the treatment of rats in sewers, and received appropriate grants.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public swimming baths in the Council's district, but the following private baths have been in use during the year:—

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere

I.C.I., Marbury Hall Park }

I.C.I., Acton }

Not available to general public.

During the year, one sample was taken from the Fourways Cafe, Oakmere. The report from the Public Health Laboratory proved to be satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Camping Sites.—The following Camping Sites were in operation throughout the Council's district during the year:—

1. Woodbine Cottage, Acton Bridge. (Taylor).
2. Allways Filling Station, Allostock. (Gore).
3. Sandy Lane, Allostock. (Worth).
4. Off Stoney Lane, Delamere. (Beckwith).
5. Off Stoney Lane, Delamere. (Speechley).
6. Mill House Farm, Little Budworth. (Booth).
7. Forest View Inn, Oakmere. (Clarke).
8. Mushroom Cottage, Oakmere. (Forster).
9. Chester Road, Oakmere. (Harrington).
10. Crabtree Caravans, Oakmere.
11. Red Lion Inn, Little Budworth.
12. Plough Inn, Marton.
13. Lamb Cottage, Daleford Lane, Marton.
14. The Vicarage, Tarporley.
15. Valley Farm, Oakmere. (Pritchard).
16. Raven Inn, Darnhall. (Brereton).
17. Byley Post Office. (Worthington).

The above list includes quite a number of new additions during the year.

Also, 21 licences were issued for the stationing of individual caravans in the district.

Recreational Sites, Playing Fields and Village Halls.—During the course of the year, the Surveyor's Department has given assistance to various Parish Councils regarding the development of recreation sites, playing fields and village hall sites; progress having been made particularly at Weaverham, Davenham and Rudheath.

Cheshire County Council Act, 1953. — This Act came into force during 1954. The Act confers powers on the Cheshire County Council and local authorities in the administrative county in relation to lands and highways, local government improvement, health and finance, to enact provisions with respect to hairdressers' and barbers' premises, etc.

The Act incorporates numerous sections relating to Public Health, including the following:—

- (1) Sewers, drains and sanitary conveniences.
- (2) Buildings and structures.
- (3) Verminous premises or articles.
- (4) Disposal of refuse.
- (5) Infectious diseases.
- (6) Food.
- (7) Miscellaneous (Registration, etc., of Hairdressers and Barbers; Water Supply, etc., etc.).

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Complied with	Issued	Complied with
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	973	78	74	23	36
2. Dwelling Houses (overcrowding) ..	8	—	—	—	—
3. Moveable Dwellings	229	1	1	—	—
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings ..	625	15	17	—	—
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools ..	680	78	76	—	—
6. Ditches and Watercourses	18	5	6	—	—
7. Offensive Accumulations	37	11	12	—	—
8. Keeping of Animals	27	7	7	—	—
9. Provision of Dustbins	157	38	38	—	—
10. Supervision of Refuse Tips	92	—	—	—	—
11. Supervision of Refuse Collections ..	108	—	—	—	—
12. Slaughterhouses	889	—	—	—	—
13. Shops, Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	536	9	13	—	—
14. Dairies and Cowsheds	46	7	7	—	—
15. Factories etc.	109	4	4	—	—
16. Protection & sampling of Water Supplies	10	2	2	—	—
17. Canal Boats	—	—	—	—	—
18. Infectious Diseases and Investigations ..	114	—	—	—	—
19. Schools, Inspections and Disinfections ..	4	1	1	—	—
20. Disinfection of Premises	114	1	1	—	—
21. Deratisation of Premises	1523	—	—	—	—
22. Smoke Observations	9	—	—	—	—
23. Miscellaneous Disinfestations	171	13	13	—	—
24. Control of Swimming Baths	1	—	—	—	—
25. Hair-dressing Establishments	1	—	—	—	—
26. Cinemas	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	6482	270	272	23	36

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	11	9	1	—
Factories with Mechanical Power ..	133	100	3	—
Other Premises	103	—	—	—
Total	247	109	4	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	2	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	4	4	—	—	—

Outworkers.—List required by Section 110 was received relating to one outworker engaged in making wearing apparel.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

New Houses.—During the year, the figures in connection with the provision of houses in the district erected by the Council and by private enterprise show a total of 239. This figure is made up of 195 Council houses and one shop with living accommodation attached thereto, and 43 houses built by private enterprise.

The Parishes in which the houses have been erected are as shown in the following schedule:—

Parishes.	PRIVATE HOUSES COMPLETED	COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED
Acton	1	—
Allostock	2	—
Anderton	—	—
Barnton	2	18
Comberbach	2	18
Crowton	2	2
Cuddington	6	10
Davenham	3	10
Delamere	3	2
Hartford	10	20
Little Leigh	1	—
Lostock Gralam	—	69
		+ 1 shop
Marton	1	4
Moulton	—	8
Oakmere	2	—
Rudheath	3	—
Tarporley	—	10
Utkinton	—	8
Weaverham	4	—
Wincham	1	16
Total	43	195
		+ 1 shop

Unfit Houses.—During the year, 29 houses were demolished, 24 by statutory action and 5 by agreement. Details of the properties concerned are as follows:—

By Statutory Action.	No. of persons re-housed as a result.	
	Adults	Children
Church Cottage, Crowton	4	—
Church Cottage, Crowton	2	—
30, Weaver View, Barnton	—	—
32, Weaver View, Barnton	—	—
290, Wallerscote Road, Weaverham	—	—
292, Wallerscote Road, Weaverham	—	—
20, Wincham Lane, Wincham	—	—
22, Wincham Lane, Wincham	5	1

26, Runcorn Road, Barnton	...	...	—	—
28, Runcorn Road, Barnton,	...	...	—	—
17, Senna Lane, Comberbach	...	...	—	—
19, Senna Lane, Comberbach	...	...	—	—
21, Senna Lane, Comberbach	...	...	—	—
76, Chapel Street, Wincham	...	...	5	2
78, Chapel Street, Wincham	...	...	4	1
24, Wincham Lane, Wincham	...	...	—	—
26, Wincham Lane, Wincham	...	...	—	—
28, Wincham Lane, Wincham	...	...	2	—
Cottage, Hulme Lane, Nether Peover	...	...	—	—
Chapel House, Wincham	...	...	—	—
2, Wincham Lane, Wincham	...	...	2	—
4, Wincham Lane, Wincham	...	...	2	2
18, Bellsmithy Cottages, Wimboldsley	...	...	2	1
20, Bellsmithy Cottages, Wimboldsley	...	...	—	—
			—	—
Total	...	...	28	7
			—	—

By Agreement: Brick Bank Cottages, Allostock (2).
 Swan Green Cottage, Nether Peover.
 Stable Cottage, Anderton.
 Alliance Cottage, Marston.

The total number of houses subject to Demolition Order and occupied under Regulation 68AA, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, are as follows:—

Rushton 3 houses

INSPECTIONS

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	607
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes	...	...	973
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932			157
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	222
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	106
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	51

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 53

3.—Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 (a) by owners ... 3
 (b) by local Authority in default of owners ... nil

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 (a) by owners ... nil
 (b) by local Authority in default of owners ... nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 29

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... nil

The number of houses closed during the year under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, was ... 3

One other dwelling was closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ... 1

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.—During the year, 136 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results:—

GRADE.	METHYLENE BLUE TEST.		PHOSPHATASE TEST.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Ungraded ...	15	5	—	—
“Accredited ” (Raw)	1	—	—	—
“T.T.” (Raw)	20	8	—	—
“Pasteurised ”	52	1	52	1
“T.T. Pasteurised”...	30	1	30	1

49 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, all with negative results.

The licences held under the Milk (Special Designations) Order for the year include:—

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “Tuberculin Tested”:—

- (a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... 20
- (b) in respect of licence to bottle ... 4

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “Pasteurised”:—

- (a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... 21
- (b) in respect of licence to bottle ... 3

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” ... 15

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” ... 14

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Officers were notified of and dealt with tuberculosis occurring in 35 herds.

Meat.—With the de-control of slaughtering, 16 slaughterhouse licences were renewed.

During the year, 889 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses. 1,702 beasts, 218 calves, 7,754 sheep and 2,169 pigs were inspected, and a total of 20,784 lbs of meat was condemned.

The number of carcasses wholly condemned were 16 beasts, 2 pigs, 3 sheep and 2 calves.

Distribution of diseases:—

Beasts:	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	14
	Multiple bruising and Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	1
	Multiple bruising and Septic Mastitis	...	...	...	...	1
Pigs:	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
	Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Sheep:	Multiple Abscesses	...	...	...	...	1
	Pathological Emaciation	...	...	...	...	2
Calves:	Pathological Emaciation	...	...	...	...	2

Slaughter of Animals Act. — 46 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, one of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and appropriate action taken, as was the case in connection with 2 confirmed outbreaks of Swine Fever.

Other Foods.—The following is a summary of other foods condemned during the year:—

50 kilos Walnuts	842 lbs. Liquid Egg
7 tins Plums	8 lbs. Suet
1 tin Salmon (1 lb.)	1965 kilos Blackcurrants
4 lbs. Butter	100 lbs. Apples

Food & Drugs Act, 1938.—The Council has on Register the following food preparing premises:—

19 Cafes	39 Canteens
14 Fried Fish Shops	70 Ice Cream Premises
29 Butchers' Premises	15 Hotels as Catering Establishments
17 Bakehouses	

Periodic visits have been paid throughout the year and a high standard of hygiene maintained.

Ice Cream.—1 premises holds a licence for the sale and manufacture of ice cream, and 69 premises for the sale of ice cream as received from other licensed manufacturers.

The Department took 46 samples during the year, with the following results:—

46 Hot Mix	—	Grade 1	—	38 samples
		Grade 2	—	8 „

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1954:—

Name of Sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Almonds, ground	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Carraway Seed	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Coffee, Soluble	1	—
Chutney, tomato	1	—
Cinnamon Essence	1	—
Cream, tinned	2	—
Cream of Tartar	1	—
Cornflour	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Fat, cooking	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Glycerine, Lemon & Honey	1	—
Gelatine	1	—
Ice Cream	4	—
Jam, raspberry	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Meat, Lunch	1	—
Milk	50	3
Milk, Condensed	1	—
Paraffin (Liquid)	1	—
Pepper (White)	3	—
Rice, Ground	1	—
Rose Hip Syrup	1	—
Throat Lozenges, Iodised	1	—
Toffee Apples	1	—
Vinegar, Malt	1	—
Total	84	3

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples.

No. Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1. Milk	36.3% deficient in fat.	Retail sale of bottle of T.T. Sold as supplied to retailer by a Dairy company. Dairy company cautioned.
2. Milk (Channel Islands).	5% deficient in fat.	Particulars sent to Ministry of Food in accordance with instruction contained in Circular M.F. 8/48.
3. Milk	3.3% deficient in fat.	Retail sale. No action owing to small deficiency.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of measles, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	79	73
Whooping Cough	48	2
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1
Measles	958	2
Acute Pneumonia	11	2
Dysentery	9	7
TOTAL	1,106	87

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local Doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1954.

Age Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...		—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...		1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-45 „ ...		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...		1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...		2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...		5	4	2	1	3	—	—	—

During 1954, 32 cases were admitted to and 34 discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year:—

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
257	272	238	244	229	229	232	230	190	218	199	202

B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis.—33 B.C.G. vaccinations of contacts to cases of tuberculosis in the N.R.D. have been carried out at the local Chest Clinic during 1954. Also, vaccination has been carried out on 5 new-born babies at the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, during the year.

Vaccination of school children in the 12/13 years age group was introduced late in 1954, and the response so far on the part of the parents to take advantage of this treatment has been very good.

(3) **INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.**

During the year, all the Schools in the Council's area were inspected by the Public Health staff, with particular regard to:— (a) Canteens (c) Sanitary accommodation
(b) Washing facilities (d) Refuse removal

(4) **DISINFESTATION & DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

The disinfection of 285 premises was carried out during the year, as follows:—

For Vermin (using D.D.T. and "Gammexane")	171	houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	...	...
For Infectious Diseases	...	...
	18	„
	96	„
Total	285	„

(5) **CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP.**

In connection with a local industry Holiday Camp, the medical examination of some 170 mid-Cheshire school children was arranged for June, 1954, prior to their departure to a North Wales Camp, 104 of whom were residents in the Northwich Rural District.

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1955.
Hartford Hill,
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